

Boys and Girls Alpine Skiing: Video Review for DSQ Reversal

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Indicate the category of the proposed recommendation

State Tournament Recommendations regarding Format and Non-NFHS Rules or NFHS Experiments

Authors of the Proposal

Minnesota State High School Coaches Assoc. Alpine Ski members

Activity/Activities (Check all that apply)

Alpine Skiing, Boys, Alpine Skiing, Girls

Current Rule/Policy

State the rule/policy as it appears in the current MSHSL Handbook or Activity/Sport Specific Rules and Policies.

VIDEO EVIDENCE

The jury will not consider any videotape in rendering a decision.

Proposed Recommendation

Submit your proposed change to the above-stated rule/policy.

Video Review for DSQ reversal.

Proposal Information:

This proposal seeks to align the MSHSL with current FIS standards which are the rule set base for MSHSL Alpine Ski competitions. While many teams have access to video cameras, a simple cell phone video is often all that is needed to show that an athlete has successfully completed their run. Due to the unique nature of Alpine Racing and the race courses it is very easy to determine and validate that the video that is being used is valid and not from a previous competition.

The proposal is as follows:

In the instance of a Disqualification (DSQ) from an MSHSL Alpine Ski Race video shall be allowed to be used as physical evidence to the Jury that a fault has not occurred in a Protest setting. (This following FIS Rule 640, the rule 640.1 states that "A jury must only accept a protest if it is based on physical evidence") The video shall be clear and convincing to the Jury that a fault has not occurred. If video evidence is not clear and convincing the Jury must make sure there is other compelling evidence to overturn the DSQ. Video use shall be used in the limited capacity only for overturning a fault that has been submitted. Video shall NOT be used to show or provide evidence of a fault that has been committed only the "Eyes of the Jury" and the Jury shall be used to declare faults in real time.

Further Justification/Background:

Background supporting this proposal includes the use of video review in other MSHSL settings as well as its universal use in the United States and International Ski competitions. The use of video in US and International competition occurs at all levels as it is the best “physical evidence”, as required by the rules, that can be used by a Jury to make a decision about if a fault really occurred or not by the individual in question. In these race instances many times Jury’s will not accept a protest without the use of video review. The use of video in the MSHSL settings can be similarly associated with its use in football, hockey and basketball tournaments in that video is being used to review the direct competitive impact of the competition. In terms of “Competitive Impact” the definition that is given in football, for instance, discusses “the call of lack of call by an official that has an impact on the opportunity for a team to change the outcome of the game”. The lack of use of video to overturn DSQ’s in the current Alpine rule set has a great “competitive impact” in that teams who are called for a fault mistakenly have no recourse other than their word against the fault card that was submitted. Video evidence to show successful completion of a section of the course and/or the race would level the competition to ensure that the proper teams and individuals are recognized at the end of the competition and that any “competitive impact” is mitigated. In Alpine Skiing it is important to remember that completion of a run is how scores are determined for Team and Individual Scoring. As in football, hockey and basketball video review is allowed when a play occurs in which a decision by an official may prevent a score. The existence of a DSQ in skiing would in fact be a decision that would prevent a score.

Include any other policies that are impacted by this proposal.

No other policies are known about.

Rationale

What is the history of the proposal?

For many seasons now we have had the unfortunate reality of not being able to use video in supporting the innocence of our athletes as they have been misidentified or incorrectly accused of having disqualified/faulted on course. Unlike many other sports we are often times using volunteers (often times parents) who have limited training in the judgement of faults to make these decisions in the blink of an eye. This proposal would allow for coaches to show that their athlete was in fact incorrectly identified in a disqualification/fault.

How does your proposal benefit education-based opportunities and MSHSL Mission and Beliefs for all Minnesota students?

This policy looks to ensure that the disqualification/fault process is fair and equal to everyone by allowing to show that something didn't happen that was alleged to have happened. The ability to provide such evidence is available to all and can be as simple as a cell phone video.

What other policies are significant in this proposal?

N/A

Provide evidence of support for the proposal from other groups

Here are some excerpts from coaches who are in support of this policy change.

By the nature of our sport, and the time most racing takes place (at night on poorly lit ski run), faults occur so fast that even a trained eye can make mistakes when writing a fault. Video is essential for conclusive answer as to if a fault was committed or not.

Long overdue .Gate judges are in most cases good hearted parents who are tasked with a difficult job of discerning a fault. Even those with experience in the sport get it wrong.

I could not be more in favor of this proposal. It is a common sense change to make. It does not give any advantage for one team over the other, and ensures the sport stays fair and competitive for all athletes. The caveat that video cannot be used against an athlete is crucial, and fully dispels any unfair advantage this change could have brought about. We MUST approve this proposal or we will continue to argue DQ's in a he-said she-said fashion.

FULLY SUPPORT - kids are errantly being DQ'd without recourse. Training parent gatekeepers has proven to be inadequate.

This is something that needs to happen to help our Jury members make the correct decisions. It is widely accepted at all other levels of skiing including high school in nearby states.

Impact

How does your proposal affect this activity, including its impact on all classes, areas of the state, and variety of schools

No impact on the activity outside of aligning it with current best practice standards on the US and International levels of racing.

Administration

How does your proposal impact section and state tournaments?

It ensures that all athletes have the right to prove their innocence in a matter of a disqualification/fault. It will show give us the correct results and follow the best practices for "Due Process" in our sport of Alpine.

Length of Tournament

How does your proposal impact the needed competition time for section and state tournaments?

This proposal could shorten the time needed to hold Jury meetings to certify faults/disqualifications(DSQ). With the ability use video to clearly see that a fault did not occur a DSQ can be thrown out without the need for a lengthy discussion about if something actually occurred.

Participants

How does your proposal impact the number of participants/teams?

No Impact.

How does your proposal impact the percentage of participants/teams that would qualify for the

state tournament?

No Impact.

Facilities

How does your proposal impact the facilities needed to accommodate your recommendation at both the section and state level?

No Impact.

Awards

How does your proposal impact the number of awards at both section and state?

No Impact.

Other

Provide any other pertinent information not included in this proposal

N/A

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Position

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